THE THIRTEENTH DAY.

12th March, 1924.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday the 12th March, 1924.

Rao Bahadur R. Viraraghava Aiyangar B. A., B. L., the Officer in charge of the Administration, presided. Before commencing the proceedings, he said :—

"Gentlemen, before we begin to-day's work, please allow me to say one or two words. This is the twelfth working day of the Assembly and the seventeenth day from the commencement of this session. About 19 subjects have to be got through and I request your cordial assistance to enable me to get through the work to-day."

160. Needs of the Kartikapalli taluk.

Mr. S. Subbaraya Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Haripad) represented that, for want of a Magistrate's court at Haripad, the litigant public experienced great difficulty in having to go to the Kayankulam Magistrate's court to conduct their cases. There was, no doubt, a fall in the number of cases filed from Haripad, but that did not show that crimes were on the decrease. He then referred to the existence of rowdies at the place and said that the rowdies and the police had come into power. It was more or less a case of Police Raj, and if one wanted to trespass into another's compound one had only to seek the help of the Police. Lastly, the Member referred to the absence of a Bench Magistrate's court at Haripad.

The Member next said that, since the extinction of the Shanmukhavilasam English High School, Haripad, there had been no High School for over 10 years in the taluk. The pupils were being sent to other places for study which resulted in the deterioration of their character. They had been petitioning the authorities constantly and the final reply of the Government was that the existing Government English Middle School would be handed over to any properly constituted private body. The resolution of the Municipal Council that they were prepared to take up the management of the school did not meet with the approval of the Government. They were, however, glad that the Nair Service Society had come to their rescue by endeavouring to open a High School and had begun the construction of a building. It was very gratifying that the society had received large contributions from the people. The school was to be opened at Kumarapuram, about 1½ miles from Haripad. As the organisers had applied for a grant-in-aid, the Member requested that it might be given and also every help rendered to them.

He then referred to the *punja* lands extending over the northern and eastern portions of the taluk and watered by the Kulakkada and Pampa rivers. The Member represented that the net-work of channels connecting those rivers and the *punja* fields served by them might be improved by (1) deepening the silted portions, (2) removal of encroachments, and (3) the prevention of brine water which was highly injurious to paddy cultivation, and that some new channels be opened and connected with the existing ones. It was also necessary that the Mundattinkara *todu* should be improved and the Payippad river connected with the Kulakkada river.

The Member next pointed out that, at the place where the Kulakkada river joined the Pampa river, there was a small formation of land owing to the deposit of silt, the occupant of which was now paying prohibitory assessment. The Member prayed that that area be cleared as it prevented the easy passage of silt and thereby deprived the large extent of fields below the river of the free supply of natural manure obtained by means of such silt.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that a lock be provided at Pattiyur so as to prevent the influx of brine water into the channels.

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The Member's next representation was for the conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital and for an officer higher in status than a Hospital Assistant being put in charge of that institution. He pointed out that, by the posting of a Hospital Assistant to the institution, the attendance of patients had fallen by more than 3,000 in 1098 and observed that the services of better-qualified men in neighbouring hospitals like Mavelikara could not be secured as those officers declined to visit the patients in Kartikapalli without the permission of the local officer. In a particular case in which the Mavelikara Medical Officer insisted on the production of such a letter from the local officer the patient died before any satisfactory medical aid could be secured.

Lastly, the Member spoke about the cocoanut pest which had grown to be a terrible scourge. From Kayankulam, where it had been raging, it spread to the neighbouring places. The special officer appointed by Government to combat the spread of the disease was unable to find out a remedy and his services were dispensed with. The remedy suggested by the agricultural officers, *viz.*, to cut down the affected trees, was worse than the disease, which showed the bankruptcy of official intellect to grapple with the problem. However, the problem had to be tackled at any cost, lest in the course of a few years all the cocoanut trees in the State should be affected and the people thereby deprived of their means of livelihood. The Member, therefore, urged the need for getting down a German scientific expert with sufficient practical knowledge to cope with the cocoanut pest. He concluded by saying that the problems of paddy and cocoanut cultivation vitally affected the people and that they deserved the earnest and anxious consideration of the Government.

President's reply.—Your representation regarding the establishment of a Magistrate's court at Kartikapalli will be noted for consideration.

As regards irrigation channels you have pointed out in the sketch submitted by you places where you want the channels to be connected. The Chief Engineer says that he will investigate the matter and do all that is feasible.

As regards the Mundattinkara channel, the Tahsildar has been asked to cut open the necessary connection between the channels through some *kandukrishi* lands, with the help of the ryots. The Chief Engineer also says that at the time the work is commenced he will depute one of his subordinates to see that it is properly carried out. The Land Revenue Commissioner will also be asked to expedite that work.

As regards the cocoanut palm disease, your representation is noted for consideration.

161. Needs of the Kunnatnad taluk.

Mr. V. R. Gopala Pillai (Member, Kunnatnad taluk) spoke about the need for the establishment of a Second Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur. He said that the administration of criminal justice was considerably handicapped for want of a Magistrate's court at the place, as the distance from Perumpavur to Alwaye was about 12 miles and the communication between the two places was difficult and inconvenient. The cases filed in the Stationary Magistrate's court at Alwaye were mostly from the *pakuthies* of the Kunnatnad taluk. If it was not possible to establish a Second Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavur, either the Tahsildar of Kunnatnad might be empowered to exercise magisterial powers or the Division First Class Magistrate be directed to try all classes of cases.

The Member next referred to the establishment of a charging station at Mamalai. He observed that the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Police, Perumpavur, extended over the whole of the Kunnatnad taluk, that Mamalai, which was the centre of rowdies, was about 12 miles distant from Perumpavur, and that the Perumpavur Inspector could not have proper control over Mamalai. The Commissioner of Police who was approached on the subject appreciated the necessity of having a

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